



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 10, 2003

**S. 643  
Hibben Center Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on June 25, 2003*

S. 643 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease space for up to 40 years in the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research, a new, nearly completed facility built by the University of New Mexico. The bill would authorize the Secretary to enter into a lease agreement to provide for nominal annual rent, to make leasehold improvements related to the care of the archaeological collections, and to pay a pro-rata share of the annual operating expenses of the center. In addition, the bill would authorize the Secretary to contribute up to \$1.75 million towards the construction costs of the center. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS) and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 643 would cost the federal government approximately \$4.25 million over the next five years. Of this amount, we estimate that \$1.75 million would be paid to the university in 2004 for construction costs. The remaining \$2.5 million would be spent in 2004 or 2005 for leasehold improvements and furnishings. We estimate that annual costs (including payments for rent and possibly a federal contribution for center operating costs such as utilities) would be negligible. (A private endowment has been established to cover the operating expenses of the center, and it is possible that no federal contribution will be required for that purpose.)

S. 643 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would provide a benefit to the University of New Mexico (a public university), and any costs the university incurs would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Jenny Lin. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.